

November 28 2014

RE: SSI application No 5982 for an up to 10 storey, 70000 sqm, floorspace Northern Beaches Hospital

Introduction

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) was formed in 1957 to promote the concept of a network of national parks in NSW under specialist national parks and wildlife legislation and managed by a professional agency. Today NPA continues to build on this work through a network of 18 regional branches and over 10,000 supporters. NPA has a strong interest in protecting the health and integrity of high conservation value land and biodiversity across NSW, within national parks and also beyond them on travelling stock routes, private land and many other land tenures. NPA is also involved in tourism by providing our members with over 1000 guided bushwalks throughout the state each year.

The National Parks Association acknowledges the need to maintain and improve the health infrastructure in our community but believes that this improvement should not come at such a high price - the destruction of a significant proportion of the remaining Duffy's Forest Ecological Community.

NPA opposes SSI application No 5982 for an up to 10 storey, 70000 sqm, floorspace Northern Beaches Hospital concept proposal and vegetation clearing.

The development of the Frenchs Forest Hospital should not go ahead on the proposed site because of the contribution that this development is likely to have to the extinction of the Duffy's Forest Ecological Community. This ecological community exists only on ridge tops of this area and only 15% of the original extend is still present in isolated patches. The proposed hospital site is the largest southern stand of DFEC and it is in a very healthy condition. Weeds are restricted to only some margins. Given the threat of extinction of a unique part of our

environment we believe that every effort should be made to place the new hospital elsewhere on the Northern Beaches. We note that the identification of this endangered community was made by the experts (Smith & Smith) who developed the definition of the community for the NSW Scientific Committee (see attached report). We must balance the extinction of a unique part of nature against the gains to be had from a hospital that could easily be constructed at other sites.

There are other significant issues that should guide the government in choosing another site for this development. The site is a wildlife corridor for fauna moving from Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks to Manly Dam reserve. Maintaining these links between bush fragments enables the whole to be greater than the sum of the parts of our remaining urban bush. We note that the powerful owl an endangered species has been nesting on the boundary of the proposed hospital site and new evidence of a spotted tailed quoll in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment has recently been confirmed, substantiating this claim. The site is on a ridge top above the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment, an area that the government has committed to gazetting as a State Park in recognition of its great value as a recreational and bush area. Further development within the catchment and the inevitable increase in intensity of land usage engendered by a large teaching hospital will inevitably encroach upon the remaining bush in the catchment.

Other significant issues such as the need to improve roads through the area such as the widening of Wakehurst Parkway to improve access to the proposed Hospital will also subject the surrounding bush to a death by a thousand cuts. The traffic congestion issues are a major problem for this project and will need significant and costly work that will decrease the ability of the government to provide the health services proposed as well as decrease funding available to other government priorities in the National Parks system.

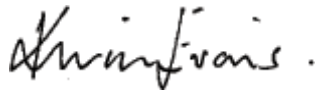
We note that this submission is being made as part of a consultation process that should still be able to contribute to the NSW Government's decision not to place the hospital in this environmentally fragile area. We hope that this process will enable the government to

constructively engage with the community, allowing it to recognise what will be lost if the project goes ahead on this site and contribute to the government deciding to upgrade hospital services in the area at an alternate brownfield site on the Northern Beaches.

We are further opposed to 'Offsets' proposed as they are grossly inadequate and request that the vegetation remains on site.

Sincerely,

Kevin Evans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Evans", followed by a period.

CEO

National Parks Association of NSW Inc